

CLAIMS

1. A stylus tip for a workpiece contacting probe, comprising a self-lubricating or low friction material.
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2. A stylus tip according to claim 1, wherein the material is a composite comprising a low friction material or solid state lubricant, incorporated into a dimensionally stable microstructure.
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3. A stylus tip according to claim 2, wherein the solid state lubricant is graphite or a graphite-like material.
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4. A stylus tip according to claim 3, wherein the solid state lubricant is hexagonal boron nitride.
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5. A stylus tip according to claim 4, wherein the dimensionally stable microstructure comprises silicon nitride.
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6. A stylus tip according to claim 5, wherein the ratio of boron nitride to silicon nitride is less than 20%, preferably 5% - 15%.
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7. A stylus tip according to claim 1 or claim 2, comprising polytetrafluoroethylene impregnated in a matrix material.
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8. A stylus tip according to claim 1, comprising boron carbide annealed to produce a solid lubricant film on its surface.
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9. A stylus tip according to claim 1 or claim 8,

wherein the self-lubricating material or film is self-replenishing.

10. A stylus tip according to any one of the preceding
5 claims, comprising a substrate and a coating over said
substrate, the coating comprising said self-lubricating
or low friction material.

11. A stylus for a workpiece contacting probe having a
10 stylus tip according to any one of the preceding
claims.

12. A workpiece contacting probe having a stylus
according to claim 11.